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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Planning and Economic Development Committee  
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2023-P-12  
Date: April 4, 2023

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**Subject:**

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Membership  
Appointments, File: A01-37-02

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**Recommendation:**

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the following citizen volunteers be appointed as **Area Municipal Representatives** to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee: Muaz Nasir (Ajax); William Baszyk (Brock); Kim Murray (Clarington); Dimitri Stathopoulos (Oshawa); Ozair Chaudhry (Pickering); Geoff Carpentier (Scugog); Bruce Foxtan (Uxbridge); and Bryan Widner (Whitby);
- B) That the following citizen volunteers be appointed as **At-Large** members to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee: Keiko Lui and Jay Cuthbertson;
- C) That the following citizen volunteer be appointed as the **Post-Secondary** member to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee: Peter Cohen;
- D) That the following citizen volunteer be appointed as the **Youth** member to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee: Luke Nguyen;
- E) That the above-named citizen volunteers be advised of their appointment to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee;

- F) That unsuccessful applicants to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee be notified; and
- G) That a copy of Commissioner's Report #2023-P-12 be forwarded to the area municipalities.
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**Report:****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint citizen volunteers to serve on the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC).

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Established in 2001, the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) has provided advice to the Region on environmental policy and planning matters, as expressed in the Durham Regional Official Plan. DEAC's mandate was expanded in December 2022 to include climate change matters, with a new name and changes to member composition.
- 2.2 DECAC's activities will be guided by an approved [Terms of Reference](#) establishing the scope of activities, membership selection and composition, as well as meeting dates. The activities are further guided by an annual workplan, approved by Regional Council. DECAC will report its activities annually to the Planning and Economic Development Committee.
- 2.3 Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends individuals for appointment by Regional Council. DECAC membership, excluding post-secondary and youth members, corresponds with the term of Regional Council. Membership for the youth and post-secondary student members generally corresponds with the school year. Citizen volunteers in either the youth or post-secondary student roles may choose to remain on the Committee for more than one term, provided they are still a student attending a secondary or post-secondary institution, respectively.
- 2.4 DECAC is comprised of thirteen members, as follows:
- One Council representative from the Planning and Economic Development Committee (Councillor Maleeha Shahid, and Councillor Wilma Wotten as the alternate member, appointed December 2022);
  - Eight citizen volunteers as "area municipal representatives", one from each area municipality;

- Two citizen volunteers as “at large” members, nominated by the Planning and Economic Development Department; and
  - One post-secondary student and one youth member, nominated by the Planning and Economic Development Department.
- 2.5 The current composition represents a reduction in the number of members on DECAC. The former Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) was comprised of seventeen members which included all of the roles in section 2.4 of this report in addition to:
- Three additional citizen volunteers as “at large” members (a total of five at-large members); and
  - One additional youth member (a total of two youth members).

### **3. Membership Nominations and Appointments**

- 3.1 In accordance with the DECAC Terms of Reference, advertisements were placed online and in the local newspapers throughout the Region in August 2022 seeking expressions of interest from individuals wishing to serve on DECAC. The names of all individuals who expressed interest, and a summary of their experience, are provided in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 3.2 Each area municipality was provided with a list of qualified candidates and requested to nominate one representative for each Committee in accordance with the DECAC Terms of Reference. Nominations have been received from all eight area municipalities and are reflected in Recommendation A.
- 3.3 In accordance with the DECAC Terms of Reference, the Planning and Economic Development Committee must recommend two additional “at large” members for each Committee. Recommendation B reflects the candidates chosen for the at-large positions.
- 3.4 Letters of interest were also received from youth and post-secondary applicants through the advertisement released in August 2022. Two youth and one post-secondary applications were received. Recommendations C and D reflect the candidates for the post-secondary student and youth member, respectively.

### **4. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 4.1 [2022-COW-28](#) Evolution of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change (DRRCC) and Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC).

4.2 [2023-P-3](#) 2022 Annual Reports of the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

## 5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability's objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 DEAC had many notable accomplishments during the 2019-2022 term, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Planning and Economic Development Department thanks all outgoing members for their time and commitment invested into the activities of the committee.

6.2 The Planning and Economic Development Department thanks all applicants for their interest on the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee for the 2023-2026 term. Unsuccessful applications in this round of membership nominations will be retained for consideration in the event of a future vacancy.

## 7. Attachments

Attachment #1: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Membership Nominations (under separate cover)

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer